

T.U.F.O.I.C. NEWSLETTER

June 1986

Edition 48

Halleys and Other Things.

So another Newsletter rolls off the press and like many of recent years we can only say that the status quo on the UFO scene continues.

Late last year a sprinkling of reports about October/November made it look for one moment as if something more than the months of inactivity was going to happen. However, a very wet December/January quickly dismissed such hopes and until a few reports in April all was quiet.

On the Australian scene we heard a rumour that a spate of sightings occurred in West Australia early March but to date no details has come to hand to enlighten us on just what if anything is going on. As for the rest of Australia we have received no information on any UFO reports in the opening months of 1986.

A New South Wales UFO recently reported in the "People" magazine has following investigation a more mundane explanation.(see elsewhere in our Newsletter).

Halley's Comet has now come and gone and many members of the public were out viewing the night skies in unparalleled numbers. As to be expected the Centre received quite a number of calls but explanations were forthcoming in all but a couple of the sightings, two red lights with a beam at Westerway and an erratic light from Lauderdale.

It is interesting that with such a concentration of attention focused on the night sky did not bring forth any more than average number of investigations/unexplained cases for the 1980s. Sceptics of earlier years claimed that UFO flaps were media inspired but the recent exercise seems to suggest this is not always the case.

Statistics for 1980-86 (Jan-May)

Year	Investigations	Unidentified
1980	27	3
1981	33	6
1982	27	11 (Georgetown Flap)
1983	28	1
1984	13	2
1985	43	3
1986	34	3

Mystery flying object near Fingal

The sighting of an unidentified flying object in the sky in the Fingal area was reported this week.

The Northern representative for the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre, Mr Don MacSween, is checking out the sighting reported by a man at Mangana on the East Coast on Monday night.

The Mangana siting involved a round object with oscillating red, green and white lights, and follows two other reports of UFOs in the area over the past 12 months.

EXAMINER 18-4-86

TASMANIAN REPORTS

Fingal has featured again in the media (previous page) a report from near Mangana occurred last August. A caller to the Launceston Examiner claimed to have seen a round red object with a beam above the road to Tower Hill. Unfortunately no details of the witnesses address etc were taken so that follow up was not possible.

An earlier case had been investigated in May (85) when a music teacher claimed he saw an object with bright lights at low level near Fingal.

The latest event occurred on April 14th at 2.30am, the witnesses location was interestingly enough at Tower Hill near Mangana which is some kilometers north of Fingal.

The witness reported seeing oscillating red, green, and white lights low to the north west towards Clogmakers Valley. He estimated the round object was about car sized and $1\frac{1}{2}$ kmts distant. The object was moving up rapidly from ground level and in about 30 seconds had disappeared from sight.

The witness who says he does not sleep that well says that he saw the same or similar object Anzac Weekend. The Centre is following up to obtain full details on all reports.

A further case from the same night has been reported, this time at 6.25pm on the 13th. A couple of witnesses at Binalong Bay saw a white light moving from west to east, it descended to a 30 degree elevation then silently moved away to the north east gaining elevation and fading out of sight in 10 seconds. The sighting lasted about a minute.

Another sighting was due to the witness being up in the early hours of the morning, this time from Lenah Valley (Hobart) on February 3rd. The witness was suprised to see two white elliptical shapes in the north eastern sky, they were surrounded by smaller white lights that pulsed throughout the sighting. The two elliptical shapes one above the other were joined by two strut like shapes. The struts seemed to join into the centre of the bottom elliptical shape. The shapes did not seem to move in the half hour that the witness was watching so she finally went back to bed at 4.15am

The only other report from the south of the state to date occurred on April 4th at Lauderdale. The witness had let the dog out and was having a look for Halley's Comet when she saw an erratic moving light in the north east. The sighting was only of a brief nature but the light performed a series of zig-zags, rolled over, went up and down, then disappeared into the distance towards Mt Wellington (west). The witness said it was like watching a ballon that has had the air let out of it as it hurtles all over the place.

Our next event dates back to 1978 but is of special interest in view of other cases that occurred in the same area in November. On November 9th a green triangle shape appeared in front of a taxi near Risdon Vale, the taxi's radio played up during the sighting. Some days later a Sandford resident was woken up by the family dog, looking out a doorway of light was seen in the driveway of the home. Another sighting took place near South Arm that month when lights were seen at low level by a motorist.

The case just to hand occurred in the South Arm area that same November. The witness says his dog had been barking for an age so he finally got up about 1am to see what was up. From his front door he could see what he described as an outline of a doorway some 100mts distant down the road. A green outline was observed, about 3m tall and 2m wide, it was stationary at ground level and just went out. There was no sound or other features visible during the event. The dog stopped barking when the door went out.



Reports Digest

P.O. Box 728
Lane Cove NSW 2066

NA86-001 CE2 29 Jan 86 Orange NSW 2330 hrs

Robert Wren (22), Sharon Kelly (18), Joanne (17) and Jeffrey Eyeles (17) observed an oval-shaped object, with a flat bottom and domed top, over a period of 15 minutes. Initially, Wren had gone outside to check on the horses which were "going crazy" and making a horrific noise in a paddock across the road. Then the object was seen "hovering" about 50m distant and 50-60m above the ground. The object was about the size of a car, had a bright red, flashing or revolving light on the bottom, and was surrounded by a ring of about 20 fixed red lights. A noise like that made by an "old grader" was heard. The object appeared to approach and circle, dropped about 30m and then sped off in a southerly direction towards the local TV tower where it appeared to land in a nearby paddock. The witnesses jumped into a car and gave chase for a couple of minutes before losing sight of the object. The four, who were by now "really scared", reported their sighting to the television station and police. The next day, Wren went to the area where he thought the object had landed and found a spot where the grass had been flattened 2m wide and 4m long. Samples of the ground trace were obtained by a local contact and sent to UFOR (NSW).

(Investigator estimates 70% probability that the object was actually an air ambulance aircraft; the ground trace being unrelated and spurious. A check with the aircraft pilot revealed he had landed at one of the two local airports at 11.27pm. The airport is in the line of sight of the direction in which the object travelled. See also Sydney "Daily Mirror" and Melbourne "Herald" of 30 Jan; Sydney "Daily Telegraph", Burnie "Advocate", Brisbane "Courier Mail", Perth "West Australian" and "Sydney Morning Herald" of 31 Jan.)

NA85-002 CE3 15 Mar 85 Cherrybrook NSW 2330 hrs

Two teenagers allegedly sighted a UFO, which was as large as a house, rise above some trees and then settle down again. Then torch-like beams started to shine on their car and beings with long arms started to walk towards them. They drove off at high speed and were going to see the police but they were frightened they wouldn't be believed.

(This third-hand, unconfirmed anecdote came via a friend of the mother of one of the alleged percipients, both of whom decline to be directly interviewed. Possibilities of a hoax, or a misidentification of police activity [the long arm of the law?], cannot be ruled out. See also Sydney "Daily Telegraph", 20 Mar 85.)

TB86-002 Early Oct 85 Rosebery TAS Night

Two witnesses travelling home saw a circular arrangement of about six orange and white lights. After dropping off her passenger, the driver saw the lights again, approximately 50m from her home. The lights were stationary except that they appeared to revolve as a group.

TB86-003 15 Dec 85 Rosebery TAS 2300 hrs

Two boys, 10 and 12 years old, viewed a cluster of lights move erratically in the SW, apparently over a nearby pump station. The cluster consisted of one large light, which went "dull" when the movement of the cluster had stopped and brighter when it moved, and approximately six smaller lights arranged in a semi-circle underneath. When the lights were lost to view, banging noises were heard on the roof. Both boys ran and hid under a mattress until their parents returned home. The older boy got sore eyes whilst watching the lights, felt ill the next day and had recurrent nightmares and talked in his sleep.

(Peter Zehmeister, SWUFOR.)

ELECTRICAL STORM RESETS CLOCK.

A report in the Sydney Morning Herald (5/2/86) describes how an electrical storm caused the electronic clocks at Parliament House, Sydney, to jump forwards 20 minutes. Such effects must be considered during investigation of a UFO report with electromagnetic effects.

UFO. REPORTS RECEIVED : 1985

ACUFOS received the following numbers of UFO reports from individual state groups, over the period January to December, 1985.

ACUFOS	:	1
Casino UFO group	:	1
Perth UFO Research Group	:	0
South West UFO Research	:	0
Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre	:	5
UFO Research (FNQ)	:	7
UFO Research (NSW)	:	7
UFO Research (QLD)	:	8
UFO Research (SA) Inc	:	0
WA UFO Investigation Centre	:	3
Total	:	32

UFOR (FNQ) advises that they received approximately 20 additional reports, consisting of 16 astronomical and 4 aircraft identifieds.

STARS AND STRIPES, Washington, DC - Aug. 19, 1985 CR: R. Reid

Plane allegedly buzzed by missile

ROME (AP) — The Italian Air Safety Board opened an investigation Saturday into claims that a Greek Boeing 707 was skimmed by a military missile while flying over the Swiss-Italian border.

The investigation follows an emergency message Thursday to air traffic controllers in Milan from Olympic Airways Capt. Christos Stanulis, who said his airplane had come within 300 feet of colliding with an

object that looked like a guided missile.

Seventy people were on board the jet, which was flying from Zurich, Switzerland, to Athens.

The Italian Defense Ministry said Saturday that the unidentified flying object could not have been a guided missile.

In a statement, the Italian Defense Ministry said the aircraft was flying at 27,000 feet outside Italian airspace at the time of

the alleged sighting.

There were no Italian or NATO military exercises taking place in the area, nor were there any unusual signals on radar screens, said the statement.

But a Greek Civil Aviation spokesman, who declined to be named, said the projectile could have been a "remote control rocket."

The Greek Civil Aviation Authority will also investigate the incident, he said.

— THE EXAMINER, Wednesday, April 30, 1986

Life in space, but they won't visit us

CANBERRA — Intelligent extra-terrestrial life does exist but any physical contact with earth is out of the question, according to a visiting American scientist.

Dr Michael Klein, a radio astronomer from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, yesterday ruled out the popular theories about extra-terrestrial life as merely good stories for books and films.

He said theories that alien spaceships would land on earth or that earthlings would travel through space to meet other intelligent life-forms were physically impossible.

Using radio telescopes, backed up by computers, would be the most effective method of contacting extra-terrestrials.

Dr Klein is in Australia, partly to investigate Halley's Comet and to also lobby Australian scientists to take part in fu-



● Dr Klein

ture extra-terrestrial experiments.

He is one of the leaders of a team of 20 people developing the proposed SETI — search for extra-terrestrial intelligence — program.

SETI intends to use earth-bound radio telescopes and some sophisticated micro-electronics to scan the skies for 'intentional' radio signals from space.

The team will concentrate on the thousands of solar-type stars within a 100 light years of the earth in our own galaxy.

Dr Klein, who has been a radio astronomer for more than 20 years, said he had come to the conclusion that extra-terrestrials, ranging in different levels of maturity, do exist.

"When one starts looking at the number of stars and at other suns, more impressive than ours, the question is whether there are other earth-like planets out there," he said.

"The answer is yes, extra-terrestrial life-form does exist."

Dr Klein said as far as he knew there had been no substantial contact with other life forms, but some scientists had in the past picked up intriguing signals.

"What we have to do is that with every signal we pick up we then have to prove it is not an extra-terrestrial, that it's just some satellite or something else," he said.